

SENATE BILL 1340

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-228 and Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6, relative to graduation rates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-228, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(g)

(1) Notwithstanding subsections (a)-(c), high school graduation rates for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years must not be used to assign a letter grade to a school, unless the use results in a higher letter grade for the school.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (g)(1), the department may report graduation rates for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years as required by federal law and as required as a part of Tennessee's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-602(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(6)

(A) Notwithstanding this part to the contrary, high school graduation rates for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years shall not be used to identify a school as a priority school, assign a school to the achievement school district, or as a metric included in school or LEA accountability.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(6)(A), the department may report graduation rates for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years as required by federal law and as required as a part of Tennessee's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

SECTION 3. The department of education shall promptly seek a waiver from the United States department of education, or seek to amend Tennessee's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, as necessary and appropriate to implement this act.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.